



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation on June 23, 2003

**NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN -- DOCKET OST 2003-15477**

This serves as notice to the public of the action described below, taken by the Department official indicated (no additional confirming order will be issued in this matter).

Applicant: VOLGA-DNEPR J.S. CARGO AIRLINE

Date Filed: June 20, 2003

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 U.S.C. section 40109(g) to permit the applicant to operate one, one-way cargo charter flight from Richmond, VA, to Bakersfield, CA, on or about June 25, 2003, using its AN-124 aircraft to transport a generator rotor attached to a rotor trailer, on behalf of PG&E National Energy Group. The applicant stated that PG&E needs urgent delivery of the equipment in order promptly to restore and return to service a generation unit for providing power to the California energy market, that the cargo is too large for transportation on U.S.-carrier aircraft; and that surface transportation is not feasible because of the large size and heavy weight of the cargo.

Applicant representative: Glenn P. Wicks, 202-457-7790      DOT analyst: Allen F. Brown, 202-366-2405

Responsive pleadings: Volga-Dnepr served its application on those U.S. carriers operating large all-cargo aircraft. Each carrier indicated that it did not have aircraft available to conduct the proposed operations and that it had no comment or did not oppose grant of the requested authority.

Statutory Standards: Under 49 U.S.C. section 40109(g), we may authorize a foreign air carrier to carry commercial traffic between U.S. points (*i.e.*, cabotage traffic) under limited circumstances. Specifically, we must find that the authority is required in the public interest; that because of an emergency created by unusual circumstances not arising in the normal course of business the traffic cannot be accommodated by U.S. carriers holding certificates under 49 U.S.C. section 41102; that all possible efforts have been made to place the traffic on U.S. carriers; and that the transportation is necessary to avoid unreasonable hardship to the traffic involved (an additional required finding, concerning emergency transportation during labor disputes, was not relevant here). For examples of earlier grants of authority of this type, *see, i.e.*, Order 2001-5-23.

**DISPOSITION**

Action: Approved

Action date: June 23, 2003

Effective dates of authority granted: June 23, 2003, through June 27, 2003

Basis for approval: We are granting Volga-Dnepr's request to operate its proposed flight from Richmond to Bakersfield, during the period June 23-27, 2003. We found that its request met all the relevant criteria of 49 U.S.C. section 40109(g) for the grant of an exemption of this type and that the grant was required in the public interest. Specifically, we were persuaded that the need to move the cargo promptly in order to meet the urgent power-restoration schedule, the fact that the cargo could not be transported by surface transportation because of its large size and heavy weight, the potential negative impact of delivery delay; and the unique, outsized nature of the cargo, constituted an emergency not arising in the normal course of business. Moreover, based on the representations of the U.S. carriers, we concluded that no U.S. carrier had aircraft available that could be used to conduct the operation at issue here. We also found that grant of this authority would prevent unreasonable hardship to PG&E National Energy Group. Finally, we found that the applicant was qualified to perform its proposed operation (*see, e.g.*, Notice of Action Taken dated August 26, 2002, in Docket OST-96-1454).

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to our standard exemption conditions and to the condition that the applicant must comply with an FAA-approved flight routing for the authorized operation.

**Action taken by:**    **Read C. Van de Water**  
Assistant Secretary for Aviation  
and International Affairs

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[http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports\\_aviation.asp](http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports_aviation.asp)